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German Democratic Republic

FDD Abstract of GDR IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF CERTAIN CHEMICALS FROM THE USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND POLAND (4 pp;
25X1X German; 27 Feb 51)

The first page of this 4-page report is an explanatory comment in English on the two attached typewritten copies of interoffice memorandums of the DAHA-Chemie (German Foreign Trade Agency-Chemicals).

One of the memorandums (Annex 2), dated 27 February 1951, was addressed to the GDR referents for the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia by Mr Schersath (of the Inorganic Chemicals Section of DAHA-Chemie-Import). Schersath indicated that he is at a loss to understand why such great quantities were recently allotted for import from intra-German trade, in view of the fact that, judging from past experience, the GDR is hardly in any position either to pay for the goods in foreign exchange or to make barter shipments of high-quality goods. To fulfill the import plan it will be necessary to buy as much as possible from the People's Democracies. Following is a list of chemicals required in 1951:

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From the USSR -- 15,000 tons of 96 % caustic soda (vital to the full operation of the textile industry); 700 tons of 98-100 % barium carbonate; 500 tons of 99.5 % borax; 200 tons of 34 % red lead (PbO_2); 1,000 tons of hardened fatty acids (full specifications given); 100 tons of sodium hydrosulfide (at least 85 %); 100 tons of yellow phosphorus; 20,000 tons of calcined soda; 150 tons of metallic sodium; 7.5 tons of thorium oxyde. (No important contracts could be concluded with capitalistic countries for import of calcined soda. Serious stoppages occurred in the glass industry and in the soap and detergents industry. As a result of this shortage the export of glassware may be ruined.)

From Poland -- at least 5,000 tons of caustic soda; 200 tons of sodium hydrosulfide (against that quantity a contract of 33 tons was concluded); 10,000 tons of calcined soda; 50 tons of rongalite (for the Lacquers and Dye stuffs import section).

From Czechoslovakia -- 300 tons of titanic oxyde (an offer for 80 tons was received); 100 tons of sodium hydrosulfide; 10,000 tons of calcined soda. (Schersath knows that Czechoslovakia has been importing calcined soda from Poland and Rumania. According to confidential information, these imports are no longer needed because of the increased Czech domestic production. No mention should be made to the Czechs that the GDR officials are cognizant of this situation).

Since some of the quantities indicated above are overlapping, the memorandum contains a consolidated list of total requirements for the principal chemicals: 18,000 tons of caustic soda; 1,500 tons of barium carbonate [compare total requirements indicated]; 300 tons of sodium hydrosulfide; and 35,000 tons of calcined soda.

The other memorandum (Annex 1), dated 27 February 1951, and addressed to Schersath by Mr Hellmann (Foreign Trade Section) is apparently in reply to the previously described document. In it Hellmann indicates the appropriate authorities to whom Schersath should address his lists of requirements. Hellmann further states that he forwarded copies of Schersath's letter to the Foreign Trade Section and to the Organic Chemicals Section and, in an accompanying letter, pointed out that new export shipments (of considerable quantities) to these countries should be executed only after consultation with Schersath. Hellmann feels that, by that procedure, a certain amount of pressure can be exerted to get the necessary imports from the above-mentioned People's Democracies.

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